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South Carolina State Library

Strategic Plan

1999 - 2002

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN 1999-2002

INTRODUCTION

The staff of the South Carolina State Library has developed a strategic plan which charts the direction of the agency to the year 2002. In developing the plan, the staff considered where we are now, envisioned where we want to go, and outlined major paths we will take to reach our destination. We realize specifics of the plan may change in response to occurrences in the dynamic environment of today's information age.

The basic elements of the plan are:

- Mission
- Values
- Vision
- Role Statements
- Strategic Issues
- Goals

ANNUAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES PLAN

The State Library will develop annual goals and objectives based upon the strategic plan. In developing this document, all departments of the State Library will identify objectives which contribute toward the attainment of goals and strategic goals. This document is approved by the State Library Board.

ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

The State Library will develop an annual business plan based upon the Annual Goals and Objectives. In this plan, all departments of the State Library will identify specific activities they will perform in meeting objectives. These activities will be relevant, specific and able to be completed within the planning year. The Annual Business Plan will be the compilation of all departments' actions for the year as they relate to the Annual Goals and Objectives. Progress will be reported quarterly.

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This report will provide the opportunity of accessing progress towards our vision.

The plan was approved by the S.C. State Library Board on .

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN 1999-2002

I. MISSION

The South Carolina State Library's mission is to improve library services throughout the state and to ensure all citizens access to libraries and information resources adequate to meet their needs. The State Library supports libraries in meeting the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of the people of South Carolina.

II. VALUES

A. QUALITY

The South Carolina State Library endeavors to provide services of the highest quality.

B. KNOWLEDGE

The South Carolina State Library believes that a well-trained and knowledgeable staff is its greatest asset.

C. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The South Carolina State Library believes freedom of expression is a fundamental right of a democratic society and supports the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement.

D. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The South Carolina State Library believes that all citizens regardless of their location or means should have access to library and information services.

E. EQUITABLE TREATMENT

The South Carolina State Library provides services to its customers in a fair and unbiased manner.

III. VISION

The South Carolina State Library is a major leader in the planning and implementation of effective informational and library services for the people of South Carolina. It is a vital component of the State's information infrastructure.

IV. ROLE STATEMENTS

A. STATEWIDE LIBRARY COOPERATION

The South Carolina State Library has a proactive role in developing initiatives and strategies to assure that libraries statewide, regardless of type, interact to obtain the maximum benefit from their collections and offer services to meet the needs of the citizens of South Carolina.

B. PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

The South Carolina State Library has the responsibility to support the development of effective public library services. The people of South Carolina depend on public libraries as an essential community resource. Libraries offer a variety of materials and services for information, enjoyment, and independent learning. Building on a heritage of serving all, regardless of means or ability, public libraries will continue to guarantee South Carolinians access to information needed to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

C. INFORMATION SERVICE

The South Carolina State Library is an information center providing information services to South Carolinians through their local libraries, to state government personnel, and to individuals unable to use conventional print materials due to physical handicaps. Its services support the educational development of the citizens of South Carolina, thereby increasing the quality of life. As a unit of state government, the State Library provides information services which contribute to a well-informed workforce resulting in a more efficient state government operation.

V. STRATEGIC GOALS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

STRATEGIC GOAL A: PROVIDE INFORMATION RESOURCES AND SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Goal 1. Serve as a partner with other libraries and information suppliers in providing information needed by South Carolinians in their daily lives.

Goal 2. Serve as the principal agent to advise, guide, and assist South Carolinians whose access to information is limited due to a disability which prevents the use of standard library formats.

Goal 3. Serve as the principal agent to advise, guide, and assist state government personnel in their quests for information.

STRATEGIC GOAL B: PROVIDE STATEWIDE PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT LOCAL LIBRARY SERVICES

Goal 1. Ensure that all South Carolina citizens receive effective and high quality library services through their public library.

Goal 2. Promote the development of effective library programs which encourage the reading and educational achievement of the State's children and youth.

Goal 3. Provide a targeted continuing education program to train library staff in order to improve library service to the community. (L,CE)

Goal 4. Provide technical assistance in planning for and management of library resources.

STRATEGIC GOAL C: SERVE AS THE ADVOCATE FOR LIBRARIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Goal 1. Encourage an awareness of the roles libraries have in providing citizens free and equal access to information.

Goal 2. Promote library services and reading throughout the state as an integral component of the educational process and as a contributor to the economic development of the state.

STRATEGIC GOAL D: ENCOURAGE COOPERATION AMONG LIBRARIES OF ALL TYPES

Goal 1. Encourage the development of library networks for resource sharing.

Goal 2. Cooperate with other agencies within the State's information and telecommunications infrastructure to ensure that libraries are included in all statewide initiatives.

STRATEGIC GOAL E: CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE STATE LIBRARY OPERATIONS AND SERVICES

Goal 1. Operate as a total quality management agency.

Goal 2. Provide policies, plans, physical facilities, and equipment for State Library operations.